Message Text

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P 110917Z MAY 77 FM USINT BAGHDAD TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4535

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0795

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IZ, US
SUBJECT: IRAQI REACTION TO DEPARTMENT'S LETTER ON INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM

1. IRAQ NEWS AGENCY HAS CARRIED ITEM ON STATEMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT'S LETTER TO SENATOR JAVITS ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. INA QUOTES THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN AS SAYING, "IRAQ, IN BACKING THE STRUGGLE OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE WHO HAVE BEEN THROWN INTO HOMELESSNESS BY THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT WITH U.S. SUPPORT, REJECTS HAVING THIS CONSIDERED AS A KIND OF TERRORISM AND REGRETS THE WAY IN WHICH THIS MATTER WAS RAISED." USINT OFFICER CALLED FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICER IN CHARGE OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS (HASSAN ANBARI) WHO CONFIRMED GENERAL THRUST OF INA STORY BUT SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK THE MINISTRY'S TEXT FOR EXACT WORDING AND CONTEXT. INA QUOTATION, WHICH IS FRONTPAGE NEWS IN ALL BAGHDAD DAILIES OF MAY 11, IS SUBJECT TO SLIGHTLY VARYING ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS, BUT USINT DOUBTS THAT INA WOULD TAKE LIBERTIES WITH A FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON MATTERS OF THIS GRAVITY.

2. GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY AL-JUMHURIYA GAVE PREVIEW OF UNCLASSIFIED

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IRAQI REACTION WITH UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN ITS MAY 10 EDITION. EDITORIAL ALLEGES THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS TURNED TO A CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM FOLLOWING THE FAILURE OF HIS HUMAN RIGHTS' CAMPAIGN. EDITORIAL LABELED DEPARTMENT'S LETTER TO JAVITS AS A "TERRORISTIC STATEMENT" AND DISCRIBED IT AS A "VILE AND MEASLY PIECE OF THEATRICS" CAST IN A TONE WHICH IS "INSOLENT

AND BOASTFUL." WHAT DEPARTMENT CALLS TERRORISM IS, ACCORDING TO EDITORIAL, SOMETHING ELSE ALTOGETHER. IT IS THE EFFORT BY PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE TO RECOVER ITS RIGHTS TO A HOMELAND AND TO RESIST CAPITULATIONIST SETTLEMENTS. IN ANOTHER CONTEXT, IT IS THE RESISTANCE OF AFRICAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO RACIST AND COLONIALIST REGIMES. THE USG ALLEGEDLY SUPPORTS THE REAL TERRORISTS, THE ZIONIST AND RACIST REGIMES. EDITORIAL ALSO DECRIES LAUNCHING BY USG OF TERRORIST WAR AGAINST THE ARAB BOYCOTT BY MEANS OF PENDING LEGISLATION AND SLAMS PRESIDENT CARTER FOR HIS PRACTICE OF THE "UGLIEST TYPES OF TERRORISM" BY HAVING A FINGER ON THE NUCLEAR TRIGGER.

3. USINT HAS ONLY SEEN NEWS SERVICE REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT'S LETTER TO JAVITS. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING TEXT BY CABLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TERRORISTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BAGHDA00795
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770165-0802 Format: TEL From: BAGHDAD

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770572/aaaacjzv.tel

Line Count: 80 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: e8f44497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 08-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:**

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2576417 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: IRAQI REACTION TO DEPARTMENT\'S LETTER ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, US

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e8f44497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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